16 June International Day of Solidarity with the Struggling People of South Africa

The Event

On 16 June 1976, in the South West Township (Soweto), the South African police opened fire on a crowd of demonstrators who were demanding a better education for black students, with less crowded schools, better qualified teachers, more adequate facilities and the right to choose the medium of instruction. Hundreds were shot dead and many wounded, including a great number of schoolchildren.

The International

Day

By its resolution 31/6 I adopted on 9 November 1976, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 16 June, known also as Soweto Day, the International Day of Solidarity with the Struggling People of South Africa. The same resolution also calls upon Member States to commemorate the day in the most fitting way.

The Special Committee against Apartheid observes annually the occasion to reaffirm its unswerving commitment for the elimination of the universally condemned policy of apartheid and to advocate the restoration of fundamental human rights to the suffering people of South Africa.

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Action

by the Special Committee against Apartheid

As the main subsidiary body of the General Assembly, the Special Committee against Apartheid is charged with the primary responsibility for the monitoring of developments in South Africa and the promotion of pressure on the South African authorities towards the speedy eradication of apartheid and the establishment through negotiations of a united, democratic, non-racial South Africa.

In solidarity with the struggling people of South Africa, the Special Committee actively publicizes the evil effects of apartheid, promotes concerted international action towards the eradication of apartheid and appeals to all Governments, anti-apartheid organizations, groups and individuals to demonstrate their support by action in:

a Observing the International Day and publicizing as widely as possible the event;

b Focusing public attention on the continued existence on the South African statute books of repressive legislation, such as the Internal Security Act, as well as on the massive problems of violence, poverty and socio-economic injustice created by the apartheid system, which need to be urgently addressed by the Government and the international community;

c Organizing meetings, seminars and workshops to discuss ways for effective international action to promote a negotiated settlement of the conflict in South Africa, in line with the United Nations Declaration on Apartheid and its destructive consequences in Southern Africa, adopted by consensus by the General Assembly on 14 December 1989;

d Supporting the United Nations efforts for the dismantling of apartheid; and

e Contributing to the United Nations funds for humanitarian, legal and educational assistance to victims and opponents of apartheid.

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- **The United Nations Trust Fund for South Africa,** which provides legal and humanitarian assistance to victims of arbitrary and repressive legislation in South Africa;

- **The United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa,** which provides scholarship assistance abroad to students from South Africa;

- **The United Nations Trust Fund for Publicity against Apartheid,** which provides additional resources for the promotion of a wider publicity campaign for the eradication of apartheid and for the peaceful transition to a non-racial and democratic South Africa.

Contributions to any one of these funds should be sent c/o United Nations Centre against Apartheid, Room S-3275, New York, N.Y. 10017.